



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
For: SSBCI Loan Participation Program

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Act provides for, among other things, the reauthorization of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (“SSBCI”), which was enacted to provide financial support to small businesses. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (the “Corporation”) is seeking proposals to deploy these funds in a manner that fills the financing needs of small businesses that presently are not being met by public and private lenders. Because of tight credit markets, more stringent underwriting standards and other economic factors, many small businesses have experienced difficulties in accessing the capital needed to both maintain operations and to grow their businesses. The Corporation will utilize the SSBCI funding to create programs that fill financing gaps in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

This document constitutes a Request For Proposals (“RFP”), in a competitive format, to lending entities (“Applicants”) seeking to participate in a SSBCI Other State Capital Program focused on loan participations (the “Program”). Applicants selected through the RFP process will work with the Corporation to extend credit to qualifying small businesses headquartered within Rhode Island (“Permissible Borrowers”) for eligible business purposes (“Business Purposes”). Applicants to this RFP shall provide a proposal, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein, to facilitate the Program.

Under SSBCI, a state is eligible for federal contributions in relation to Other State Capital Programs (“OSCPs”), which may include, among others, loan participation programs. In responding to this RFP, Applicants are encouraged to create, design, and offer programs, that best meet the needs of small businesses in communities across Rhode Island, including, but not limited to, small businesses with less capacity to weather financial hardship such as very small businesses, those with limited access to credit and/or limited collateral, minority or women-owned businesses, or those businesses serving disadvantaged communities.

The information provided in this RFP related to SSBCI is for informational purposes and Applicants are advised to undertake their own independent research and determination relative to federal requirements. To the extent of any conflict or inconsistency between information provided herein and federal law or guidance published or provided by the U.S. Treasury Department, such federal law or guidance shall control.

For specifics regarding Eligible Applicants, Matching Requirements, Permissible Borrowers, Capital at Risk, Lending Activity, and more, review the U.S. Treasury Department’s November 2021 *Capital Program Policy Guidelines*:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/256/SSBCI-Capital-Program-Policy-Guidelines-November-2021.pdf>

Eligible Applicants

The Corporation seeks lenders to help facilitate an SSBCI OSCP program focused on loan participations. Applicants may include, but are not limited to, national and local financial institutions, Community Development Financial Institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, and similar mission-oriented or community-based lenders. Eligible Applicants include any entity that is qualified and eligible to do business in Rhode Island and granted eligibility under applicable federal law.

Loan Participation Program

An SSBCI Loan Participation Program enables the state instrumentality to act as a lender, in partnership with a private lenders, to provide capital for small business growth and expansion. This type of program can be structured in two ways:

- 1) Purchase participation - the state instrumentality purchases a portion of a loan originated by a lender.
- 2) Co-lending participation - the lender originates a loan and the state instrumentality originates a second loan to the same borrower (companion loan).

For informational purposes, please view the *SSBCI Program Profile: Loan Participation Program*. Please note that requirements outlined in the *November 2021 Capital Program Policy Guidelines* may supersede certain information included in this profile.

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/256/SSBCI Program Profile Loan Participati on FINAL May 17.pdf>

Role and Responsibilities

Lending partners selected through this RFP process will be responsible for complying with all SSBCI program rules as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and additional requirements implemented by the Corporation.

Matching Requirements

The matching requirements for a proposed program must be in compliance with SSBCI requirements, which require a minimum match of 1:1.

For purposes of calculating this 1:1 match ratio, states are directed by the U.S. Department of Treasury to use the following formula:

- Financing Ratio = [total aggregate private financing generated by the individual OSCP] *divided by* [SSBCI funds used by the individual OSCP]

In addition, states are required to demonstrate a reasonable expectation that all of its programs taken together have the ability to use federal contributions to general small business lending and investment at least 10 times the federal contribution amount. As such, OSCP's that are designed to achieve private financing in excess of the minimum 1:1 match will receive preference in scoring under the metrics set forth below.

Permissible Borrowers

OSCP's, including the Program, are required to target an average borrower size of 500 or fewer employees in the aggregate, and not extend credit to a business with more than 750 employees. Borrowers must be headquartered in the state of Rhode Island.

Provided that the loan is for an eligible Business Purpose, Permissible Borrowers include (but are not limited to) the following types of small businesses: state-designated charitable, religious, or other nonprofit or philanthropic institutions; government-owned corporations; consumer and marketing cooperatives; faith-based organizations; sole proprietors; independent contractors; worker cooperatives and other employee-owned entities; and Tribal enterprises.

The Corporation may impose additional limitations in its discretion.

Capital at Risk

OSCP's must mandate that lenders, through a program that provides loans, investments or other credit or equity support, have a meaningful amount of their own capital at risk.

Eligible Lending Activity

All loans must be made for a "business purpose", which includes, but is not limited to, startup costs, working capital, business procurement, franchise fees, equipment, inventory, as well as the purchase, construction, renovation or tenant improvements of an eligible place of business that is not for passive real estate investment.

The term "business purpose" generally excludes activities that relate to acquiring or holding passive investments such as commercial real estate ownership, the purchase of securities and lobbying activities. Some limited exceptions apply in relation to loans involving real estate and purchase of ownership interest as detailed in the U.S. Treasury Department *Capital Program and Policy Guidelines*.

Loan proceeds may not be used for the following purposes:

1. Repay a delinquent federal or state income taxes unless the borrower has payment plan in place with the relevant taxing authority; or

2. Repay taxes held in trust or escrow, e.g. payroll or sales taxes; or
3. Reimburse funds owed to any owner, including any equity injection or injection of capital for the business' continuance; or
4. purchase any portion of the ownership interest of any owner of the business.

The Program is to target support towards loans with an average principal amount of \$5 million or less, and not provide credit support if a given transaction exceeds \$20 million. For loan programs, the \$20 million limit applies to the principal amount of the loan directly supported by SSBCI funding, plus all other loans for the same loan purpose that close on or about the same date. Direct SSBCI funding support includes a guarantee, cash collateral and loan participation.

Also, applicants must be legally able to receive and use the proceeds as herein stated; meet any other requirements herein stated for the specific purpose of the Program; and be in good standing with any other Corporation assistance.

Reporting

Reporting shall include, but not be limited to, all reports and/or data required by the U.S. Department of Treasury and such additional information as may be required by the Corporation or other state instrumentality in relation to participation in the Program.

Proposal Requirements:

In order to be considered responsive, proposals must at a minimum contain the following:

All proposals shall provide information relating to the elements listed in sufficient detail to allow the Corporation to conduct a selection process. Failure to include any of the following information may have an adverse impact on the evaluation of a proposal. A submission must at a minimum, include the following elements:

1. Funds Requested

State the amount of funds requested for the Program.

2. Please Describe in Detail the Proposed Program

The Applicant shall provide a detailed description of the proposed Program(s). For each proposed loan participation program, the Applicant shall provide information on the following:

- Type of program (co-lending and/or purchase participation)
- Range of expected participation percentages
- Factors for determining participation percentages
- Need for this type of capital

- Intended economic benefits and outcomes
- Qualification parameters for borrowers
- Industry focus (if applicable)
- Geographic focus (if applicable)
- Range of investment amounts
- Loan product (term, rate, etc.)
- Strategy for achieving the 10:1 Private Financing Ratio required under SSBCI
- Key partners
- Experience offering this or similar programs

Applicants shall also submit the table annexed hereto as **Appendix A**. Applicants shall include a detailed narrative of assumptions for their estimates contained in the foregoing table.

3. Organizational Information

Describe the organization's status as an eligible entity that is able to participate the Program and its ability to locate offices and operate in Rhode Island.

Describe any conflicts of interest that may be presented by participating in the Program, and how those conflicts would be managed.

4. Target Market

Identify the audiences you intend to target. How does this Program respond to a need in the communities you will serve? Please provide relevant data and cite sources. Will you provide a unique service or product in your target area(s). Include three (3) examples of loans that your institution ordinarily wouldn't make but could be made under this Program. Summarize projected outcomes, including job creation and business launch or expansion outcomes. Include an explanation of strategies to be implemented to provide loans for small businesses with less capacity to weather financial hardship such as very small businesses, those with limited access to credit and/or limited collateral, minority or women-owned businesses, or those businesses serving disadvantaged communities.

5. Management and Operations

Describe the capacity, skills, size and experience of the Applicant's management team, partners and key staff, including members of the loan or investment review committee. Describe the capacity, skills, size and experience of the Applicant's governing board. Include a list of names and affiliations of its Board of Directors or other governing body.

6. Track Record

Describe the organization's capital structure for lending or investment activities. Describe how the capital structure has changed over the past 3-5 years, what funds have been raised

during that period, and how the capital structure is expected to change moving forward. Include a breakdown of the following:

- a) total loan or investment funds (including what amounts are from debt, grant funds, and earned income)
- b) funds committed or deployed
- c) funds available for lending or investment
- d) the source of debt or grant funding (e.g. private or public source)

7. Technical Assistance

Describe any existing and/or proposed technical assistance services, including information on types of technical assistance and training available, target population and geography volume of services provided, demonstrated outcomes, and whether services are provided by the Applicant or through partnerships. Describe the connection between technical assistance and the financial products and services provided by the Applicant, including pre- and post-loan support. If technical assistance is not a component of your proposal please indicate as much in the response to this RFP

8. Marketing and Outreach

Describe how the Applicant organization will utilize community partnerships of joint ventures and coordinate its efforts with other organizations or technical assistance providers to increase volume, expand the service delivery area, or enhance services.

Describe how the Applicant organization will market its program and related services in the target markets. The marketing plan should also contain strategies that will target the service delivery region as a whole and reach certain market subsets in specific communities, such as in underserved neighborhoods or to MWBEs.

9. Data

Describe the financial and socioeconomic borrower data that the Applicant regularly collects and/or is able to collect.

Describe the method by which the Applicant collects and monitors this data.

10. Controls

Describe the internal accounting and administrative controls of the applicant and the extent to which such systems can provide reasonable assurance that the SSBCI funds will be safeguarded against waste, loss, unauthorized use, and misappropriation. For example, provide evidence of one or more of the following:

- Periodic internal audits.

- Annual independent audits (including management letters).
- Program financial statements current within the past year.
- Adequate accounting and financial management systems.

11. Certification

Provide the Certification Form annexed hereto as **Appendix B**.

Criteria for Selection

Those proposals for this RFP that are determined to be responsive will be further evaluated according to the criteria outlined below.

	Points
OVERALL EXPERIENCE OF ENTITY & DEMONSTRATED RESULTS Our evaluation will include an assessment of the history of your organization, your experience as it relates to the requirements within this RFP, evidence of past performance, quality and relevance of past work, references, and related items.	25
POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT Our evaluation will include an assessment of the short and long-term potential impact of the proposed program.	25
STRATEGIC APPROACH Our evaluation will include an assessment of the overall approach and strategy described/outlined in the proposal, including demonstration of business need for the proposed effort, target market(s), level of expected lending activity. Our evaluation will include an assessment of the businesses to be supported by the Proposal. Specific consideration will be paid to proposals that support minority-business enterprises, women-business enterprises, and veteran-business enterprises, as well as those located in disproportionately impacted census tracts.	25
ABILITY TO EXECUTE PROPOSED APPROACH Our evaluation will include an assessment of the Applicant’s capacity to perform the engagement within the specified timeframe (prior experience of the Applicant in meeting timelines will be factored in here) as well as implementation plan of the Applicant	25
Total	100
MBE/WBE/DisBE Participation (additional potential points)	6 pts

NOTE: Designated Corporation staff or selected advisors will evaluate the written proposals. The Corporation may at any time during the evaluation process seek clarification from Applicants regarding any information contained within their proposal. Final scores for each respondent will reflect a consensus of the evaluations. Any attempt by an Applicant to contact a member of

Corporation staff or selected advisors outside the RFP process, in an attempt to gain knowledge or an advantage, may result in disqualification of the Applicant.

1. ISBE Participation Evaluation (see below for scoring)

- a. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation encourages MBE/WBE/DisBE participation in this Request. In accordance with Title 37, Chapter 14.1, and Title 37, Chapter 2.2 of the Rhode Island General laws, the Corporation reserves the right to apply additional consideration to MBE/WBE/DisBE up to six (6) additional points in the scoring evaluation as provided below:
- b. Calculation of ISBE Participation Rate
 - i. ISBE Participation Rate for Non-ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for nonISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of non-ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs by the non-ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the non-ISBE's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs, the non-ISBE's ISBE participation rate would be 12%.
 - ii. ISBE Participation Rate for ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of the ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs and the amount that will be self-performed by the ISBE vendor by the ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the ISBE vendor's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs and will perform a total of \$8,000.00 of the work itself, the ISBE vendor's ISBE participation rate would be 20%.
- c. Points for ISBE Participation Rate:
 - i. The vendor with the highest ISBE participation rate shall receive the maximum ISBE participation points. All other vendors shall receive ISBE participation points by applying the following formula:

(Vendor's ISBE participation rate ÷ Highest ISBE participation rate X Maximum ISBE participation points)

For example, assuming the weight given by the RFP to ISBE participation is 6 points, if Vendor A has the highest ISBE participation rate at 20% and Vendor B's ISBE participation rate is 12%, Vendor A will receive the maximum 6 points and Vendor B will receive $(12\% \div 20\%) \times 6$ which equals 3.6 points.

See **Appendix C** for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation

Instructions and Notifications to Applicants

1. Potential Applicants are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this solicitation. However, proposals that depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of this RFP will be rejected as being non-responsive.
3. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content, shall be borne by the Applicant. The Corporation assumes no responsibility for such costs.
4. Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than 120 days following the date set for submission of proposals.
5. Proposals misdirected to other locations, or that are otherwise not present at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation by the submission deadline for any cause will be determined to be late and will not be considered. For the purposes of this requirement, the official time and date shall be that of the time clock in the reception area of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.
6. All proposals should identify the proposed team of professionals, including those employed by subcontractors, if any, along with respective areas of expertise and relevant credentials. Applicant should also provide a delineation of the portion of the scope of work for which each of these professionals will be responsible.
7. All proposals should include the Applicant's FEIN or Social Security number as evidenced by a W9, downloadable from <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>.
8. All proposals should include a completed RFP Response Certification Cover Form, included in this document.
9. Awarding this RFP is based on the Evaluation Criteria set forth in this RFP. Applicants are advised, however, that all materials and ideas submitted as part of this proposal and during the performance of any award shall be the property of and owned by the Corporation, which may use any such materials and ideas.
10. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Corporation's website (www.commerceri.com) on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP. Addenda will also be posted to the Rhode Island State Division of Purchases' website at www.purchasing.ri.gov.
11. Equal Employment Opportunity (R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1-1, et seq.) – § 28-5.1-1 Declaration of policy – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement

is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies to all areas where State dollars are spent, in employment, public services, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation.

12. In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no corporation organized under the laws of another state or country shall have the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). This is a requirement only of the successful Applicant(s).

13. The Corporation reserves the right to award to one or more Applicants.

Proposal Submission

Responses to this RFP are due no later than January 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. One (1) electronic (PDF) version must be emailed by that time to SSBCIRFP@commerceri.com. In addition, it is *requested* (not required) that three printed copies of the complete proposal be received by the Corporation at the address below by 5:00 pm on January 31st:

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Attention: SSBCI Loan Participation Program RFP
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101
Providence, RI 02908

Questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP should be directed by e-mail to SSBCIRFP@Commerceri.com no later than 5:00 pm on January 18th. Responses to questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP will be posted online via addendum at www.commerceri.com and www.ridop.ri.gov on January 21st to ensure equal awareness of important facts and details.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to terminate this solicitation prior to entering into any agreement with any qualified firm pursuant to this Request for Proposal, and by responding hereto, no firms are vested with any rights in any way whatsoever.

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for not complying with the terms of this RFP.

Program	
Program Name:	
Output	
Maximum Leverage Ratio:	0.00
General Assumptions	
Amount to be Allocated to Program	
Time until recycling (yrs)	
Time Horizon (yrs)	
Average % Participation	
Assumed Loss %	

Portfolio Composition Assumptions		
Loan Tenor (yrs)	Multiple	% of total portfolio
1	1.00	
3	1.00	
5	1.00	
10	1.00	
Total		0%

Notes

Time Until Recycling: Generally SSBCI funds are to be drawn down before using recycled funds from previous lending. Enter the number of years needed for SSBCI funding to be expended before cycling through the proposed program.

Time Horizon: Enter the number of years the program is expected to remain in operation up to ten years.

Average % Participation: Enter the average percentage of the principal loan amount the SSBCI funds are expected to make up. Enter values as integers (e.g. 10% should be entered as 10).

Assumed Loss %: Enter the average percent of total loan losses as a percentage of total lending.

Loan Tenor (yrs): Enter the different types of loan tenors to be available under the proposed program.

Percentage of Portfolio: Enter the percentage of the total loan portfolio expected to be composed by a given loan tenor. The sum should equal 100%. Enter values as integers.

APPENDIX B

CERTIFICATION FORM SSSBCI

The undersigned hereby certifies on behalf of _____ (the “Applicant”) as follows:

I am an employee of the Applicant and have authority to execute this Certification on behalf of the Applicant.

I have read the Treasury issued guidance on the SSBCI program found at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/256/SSBCI-Capital-Program-Policy-Guidelines-November-2021.pdf> and the Applicant is committed to operating in accordance with all federal rules and guidelines in relation to its participation in any SSBCI program.

I have read the Treasury Assurance of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements document found at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Title_VI_Assurances.pdf and the Applicant is willing to sign and comply with the terms set forth therein or substantially similar document containing the requirements issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury to the extent it is chosen to participate in any SSBCI program.

The undersigned, on behalf of the Applicant as a potential recipient of federal funding under the SSBCI program and as provided under 28 U.S.C. §1746, hereby certifies under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Name:
Title: _____
Date: _____

APPENDIX C

APPLICANT ISBE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MBE, WBE, AND/OR DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION FORM

A. Applicant's ISBE Responsibilities (from 150-RICR-90-10-1.7.E)

1. Proposal of ISBE Participation Rate. Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, a Applicant must submit its proposed ISBE Participation Rate in a sealed envelope or via sealed electronic submission at the time it submits its proposed total contract price. The Applicant shall be responsible for completing and submitting all standard forms adopted pursuant to 105-RICR-90-10-1.9 and submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by either the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to the names and contact information of all proposed subcontractors and the dollar amounts that correspond with each proposed subcontract.
2. Failure to Submit ISBE Participation Rate. Any Applicant that fails to submit a proposed ISBE Participation Rate or any requested substantiating documentation in a timely manner shall receive zero (0) ISBE participation points.
3. Execution of Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. Applicants shall be evaluated and scored based on the amounts and rates submitted in their proposals. If awarded the contract, Applicants shall be required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates. During the life of the contract, the Applicant shall be responsible for submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to copies of purchase orders, subcontracts, and cancelled checks.
4. Change Orders. If during the life of the contract, a change order is issued by the Division, the Applicant shall notify the ODEO of the change as soon as reasonably possible. Applicants are required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates on any change order amounts.
5. Notice of Change to Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. If during the life of the contract, the Applicant becomes aware that it will be unable to achieve its proposed ISBE Participation Rate, it must notify the Division and ODEO as soon as reasonably possible. The Division, in consultation with ODEO and Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Applicant may agree to a modified ISBE Participation Rate provided that the change in circumstances was beyond the control of the Applicant or the direct result of an unanticipated reduction in the overall total project cost.

B. MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form:

Attached is the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form. Applicants are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

MBE, WBE, and/or DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION PLAN

Bidder's Name:

Bidder's Address:

Point of Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

Solicitation No.:

Project Name:

This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity MBE Compliance Office and all Disability Business Enterprises must be certified by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities at time of bid, and that MBE/WBE and Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors must self-perform 100% of the work or subcontract to another RI certified MBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE certified as a manufacturer. This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted at time of bid. **Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.**

Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:					
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Business Enterprise				
Address:					
Point of Contact:					
Telephone:					
Email:					
Detailed Description of Work To Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier:					
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):		ISBE Participation Rate (%):	
Anticipated Date of Performance:					

I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.

Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature		Title	Date
Subcontractor/Supplier Signature		Title	Date

RFP/RFQ RESPONSE CERTIFICATION COVER FORM

Instruction: To fulfill your RFP/RFQ response, this form must be completed, printed, signed and included with your submission.

SECTION 1 - RESPONDENT INFORMATION

RFP/RFQ Number:

RFP/RFQ Title:

RFP/RFQ Respondent Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Contact Name: Contact Title:

Contact Email:

SECTION 2 —DISCLOSURES

RFP/RFQ Respondents must respond to every statement. RFP/RFQ Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No) for Disclosures 1-4, and if "Yes," provide details below

____ 1. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been subject to suspension or debarment by any federal, state, or municipal governmental authority, or the subject of criminal prosecution, or convicted of a criminal offense within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 2. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has had any contracts with a federal, state, or municipal governmental authority terminated for any reason within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 3. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been fined more than \$5000 for violation(s) of any Rhode Island environmental law(s) by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 4. State whether any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent is serving or has served within the past two calendar years as either an appointed or elected official of any state governmental authority or quasi-public corporation, including without limitation, any entity created as a legislative body or public or state agency by the general assembly or constitution of this state.

Disclosure details (continue on additional sheets if necessary):

SECTION 3 —OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

Respondents must provide all relevant information. Respondent proposals submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

If the Respondent is publicly held, the Respondent may provide owner information about only those stockholders, members, partners, or other owners that hold at least 10% of the record or beneficial equity interests of the Respondent; otherwise, complete ownership disclosure is required.

List each officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principle of the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent. For each individual, provide his or her name, business address, principal occupation, position with the Respondent, and the percentage of ownership, if any, he or she holds in the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent.

SECTION 4 —CERTIFICATIONS

Respondents must respond to every statement. Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No), and if "No," provide details below.

THE RESPONDENT CERTIFIES THAT:

___ 1. The Respondent will immediately disclose, in writing, to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation any potential conflict of interest which may occur during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

___ 2. The Respondent possesses all licenses and anyone who will perform any work will possess all licenses required by applicable federal, state, and local law necessary to perform the requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation and will maintain all required licenses during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required license shall lapse or be restricted or suspended, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

___ 3. The Respondent will maintain all required insurance during the term of any contract pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required insurance shall lapse or be canceled, the Respondent will immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

___ 4. The Respondent understands that falsification of any information in its RFP/RFQ response or failure to notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation of any changes in any disclosures or certifications in this Respondent Certification may be grounds for suspension, debarment, and/or prosecution for fraud.

___ 5. The Respondent has not paid and will not pay any bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration to any employee or official of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any subdivision of the State of Rhode Island or other governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. The Respondent further certifies that no bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration has been or will be received from any third party or paid to any third party contingent on the award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.

___ 6. This RFP/RFQ response is not a collusive RFP/RFQ response. Neither the Respondent, nor any of its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents has in any way colluded, conspired, or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other Respondent or person to submit a collusive response to the solicitation or to refrain from submitting response to the solicitation, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion or other communication with any other Respondent or person to fix the price or prices in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost component of the price in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any person with an interest in the contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. The price in the response is fair and proper and is not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement on the part of the Respondent, its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents.

___ 7. The Respondent: (i) is not identified on the General Treasurer's list created pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2.5-3 as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran described in § 37-2.5-2(b); and (ii) is not engaging in any such investment activities in Iran.

___ 8. The Respondent will comply with all of the laws that are incorporated into and/or applicable to any contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

Certification details (continue on additional sheet if necessary):

Submission by the Respondent of a response pursuant to this solicitation constitutes an offer to contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation on the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation and the response. The Respondent certifies that: (1) the Respondent has reviewed this solicitation and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions; (2) the response is based on this solicitation; and (3) the information submitted in the response (including this Respondent Certification Cover Form) is accurate and complete. The Respondent acknowledges that the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the response will be incorporated into any contract awarded to the Respondent pursuant to this solicitation and the response. The person signing below represents, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is fully informed regarding the preparation and contents of this response and has been duly authorized to execute and submit this response on behalf of the Respondent.

RESPONDENT

Date: _____

Name of Respondent

Signature in ink

Printed name and title of person signing on behalf of Respondent